

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

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1. A method for procuring a manufactured component through a plurality of development stages, the method comprising:  
 providing a database for storing information related to procuring the manufactured component;  
 sharing the database among a plurality of relevant parties;  
 inputting data into the database by at least one of the relevant parties during a development stage of the manufactured component; and  
 modifying the database at each development stage if necessary.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the database holds data related to procurement of a plurality of components for a computer system.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
 providing a pointer in the database, the pointer locating data related to at least one of the development stages.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the relevant parties include a manufacturer and at least one supplier.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the data includes:  
 production information;  
 testing information;  
 regulatory information; and  
 cost information.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the database is stored on a memory and includes:  
 a plurality of partitions, each partition relating to manufacturing the component;

5 a plurality of fields within each partition, the plurality of fields for logging  
6 information related to a plurality of manufacturing development stages;  
7 and  
8 a plurality of storage locations for storing data related to the plurality of  
9 partitions;  
10 wherein the database is accessible to a manufacturer and at least one outside vendor.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the database is accessible via one of an  
2 internet connection to a network, an intranet connection to a network and both an  
3 internet and intranet connection to a network.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the database is accessible via a  
2 transportable memory.

1 9. A database stored on a memory for use in manufacturing a component,  
2 the database comprising:  
3 a plurality of partitions, each partition relating to manufacturing the  
4 component;  
5 a plurality of fields within each partition, the plurality of fields for logging  
6 information related to a plurality of manufacturing development stages;  
7 and  
8 a plurality of storage locations for storing data related to the plurality of  
9 partitions;  
10 wherein the database is accessible to a manufacturer and at least one outside vendor.

1 10. The database of claim 9 wherein the database is accessible via one of  
2 an internet connection to a network, an intranet connection to a network, and both an  
3 internet and intranet connection to a network.

1 11. The database of claim 9 wherein the database is accessible via the  
2 memory being transportable.

1           12.     The database of claim 9 wherein the database is capable of activating a  
2     plurality of programs for viewing and editing the data, the plurality of programs  
3     enabling the manufacturer and the at least one outside vendor to view and edit  
4     identical data.

1           13.     The database of claim 12 wherein the plurality of programs are read-  
2     only viewers.

1           14.     The database of claim 9 wherein the plurality of fields includes a  
2     plurality of comment fields.

1           15.     The database of claim 9 wherein the plurality of partitions includes a  
2     plurality of forms for inputting and viewing data.

1           16.     The database of claim 15 wherein the plurality of forms include at least  
2     one of an evaluation form, a regulatory form, a reliability form, a design review form,  
3     a manufacturability form, a documentation form, a system test form, a mechanical  
4     form, a bench test form and a report form.

1           17.     A method of procuring a computer component comprising:  
2     providing a database stored on a memory, the database including:  
3         a plurality of partitions, each partition relating to manufacturing the  
4         component;  
5         a plurality of fields within each partition, the plurality of fields for  
6         logging information related to a plurality of manufacturing  
7         development stages; and  
8         a plurality of storage locations for storing data related to the plurality  
9         of partitions, and  
10     providing access to the database by a manufacturer and at least one outside  
11     vendor.

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the database is accessible via one of  
2 an internet connection to a network, an intranet connection to a network, and both an  
3 internet and intranet connection to a network.

1 19. The method of claim 17 wherein the database is contained in a  
2 transportable memory.

1 20. The method of claim 17 further comprising:  
2 enabling the manufacturer and the at least one outside vendor to view identical  
3 data via a plurality of programs for viewing and editing the data.

1 21. The method of claim 20 wherein the plurality of programs are read-  
2 only viewers.

1 22. The method of claim 17 wherein the plurality of fields includes a  
2 plurality of comment fields.

1 23. The method of claim 17 wherein the plurality of partitions includes a  
2 plurality of forms for inputting and viewing data.

1 24. The method of claim 23 wherein the plurality of forms include at least  
2 one of an evaluation form, a regulatory form, a reliability form, a design review form,  
3 a manufacturability form, a documentation form, a system test form, a mechanical  
4 form, a bench test form and a report form.

1 25. The method of claim 17 wherein the plurality of partitions includes:  
2 a second subset of the plurality of fields for inputting data related to test  
3 results.

1 26. A computer system comprising:  
2 a processor;

3 system memory coupled to the processor;  
 4 a memory coupled to the processor, the memory including a database for use  
 5 in manufacturing a component, the database including:  
 6 a plurality of partitions, each partition relating to manufacturing the  
 7 component;  
 8 a plurality of fields within each partition, the plurality of fields for  
 9 logging information related to a plurality of manufacturing  
 10 development stages; and  
 11 a plurality of storage locations for storing data related to the plurality  
 12 of partitions;  
 13 wherein the database is accessible to a manufacturer and at least one outside  
 14 vendor.

1 27. The computer system of claim 26 wherein the database is accessible  
 2 via a computer network.

1 28 The computer system of claim 26 wherein the database is accessible  
 2 via the memory being transportable.

1 29. The computer system of claim 26 wherein the database includes a  
 2 plurality of programs for editing and viewing the data, the plurality of programs  
 3 enabling the manufacturer and the at least one outside vendor to view identical data.

1 30. The computer system of claim 26 wherein the plurality of viewers are  
 2 read-only viewers.

1 31. The computer system of claim 26 wherein the plurality of fields  
 2 includes a plurality of comment fields.

1 32. The computer system of claim 26 wherein the plurality of partitions  
 2 includes a plurality of forms for inputting and viewing data.

- 1 33. The computer system of claim 32 wherein the plurality of forms
- 2 include at least one of an evaluation form, a regulatory form, a reliability form, a
- 3 design review form, a manufacturability form, a documentation form, a system test
- 4 form, a mechanical form, a bench test form and a report form.

*add A2*